Human Resource Development needs to be given prime importance involving locals for training as porters, mountain guides and other tourism related activities.

(f) the following steps are being taken to implement the suggestions:-

(1) Infrastructure development based on Master Plan

(2) Reduction of domestic air tariff, taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(3) Thrust has been given to Eco-tourism in the National Tourism Policy

(4) New scheme for Capacity Building has been introduced in the 10th Plan.

(5) Special campaign for promotion of tourism in North East Region

(6) State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to furnish proposals for rural tourism.

Unutilised Budgetary Allocation

†735. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budget allocations made to the Ministry for development of Tourism and Culture were returned unutilised to the Ministry of Finance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken/contemplated against the officers responsible for non-utilisation/surrender of funds?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) As far as Department of Tourism is concerned, out of the Plan Budget of Rs.150.00 crores during the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs.86.00 lakhs was surrendered. Apart from this, an amount of Rs.2.71 crores could not be utilised under various heads put together. Main reasons for this were late/non-finalisation of schemes by the Planning Commission and receipt of incomplete proposals from some of the State Governments. The total amount unutilised was Rs.3.57 crores which comes to 2.38% of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the total Plan allocation of Rs.150.00 crores which is a very small component. As regards action, the matter is being looked into.

Regarding Department of Culture, out of allocation of Rs.175.00 crores (Plan) during 2001-2002, the un-utilised amount was Rs.2.39 crores which pertained to as many as 32 budget heads.

Heritage Sites Selected in A.P.

736. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a part of new initiative some centres like Bodh Gaya, Jaisalmer and Hampi are to be developed as major tourist destinations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any site from Andhra Pradesh has been selected for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to develop the site into a major tourist attraction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to develop Bodhgaya as a major tourist destination a Master Plan for Bodhgaya is being prepared by the Department of Tourism. A project for development of a meditation Park in Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya is also being taken up. The Central Government has undertaken major structural repair at Bodhgaya and Jaisalmer Fort. Besides, it has been decided to develop Hampi as a world class destination. The projects for development includes Setting up of Tourist Reception Centre, Construction of Civic Amenities and Illumination and SEL Show at Hampi.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India has a proposal to upgrade a number of archaeological sites of Andhra Pradesh which includes group of monuments at Warangal and Golconda Fort.

(e) Does not arise.